

What is Claimed is:

1. A process for the production of an L-amino acid product comprising:
 - a) fermenting a microorganism from the Enterobacteriaceae family in a fermentation medium, wherein said microorganism produces said L-amino acid and wherein the galP gene is overexpressed or another nucleotide sequence coding for galP is expressed in said microorganism;
 - b) enriching said L-amino acid in said fermentation medium or in said microorganism; and
 - c) isolating said L-amino acid to produce said amino acid product.
2. The process of claim 1, wherein said L-amino acid is L-threonine.
3. The process of either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein some or all of the constituents of said fermentation medium and/or the biomass of said microorganism remain in said amino acid product.
4. The process of either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein at least one gene in the biosynthesis pathway of said L-amino acid is overexpressed.
5. The process of either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein at least one metabolic pathway which reduces the production of said L-amino acid in said microorganism is switched off.
6. The process of either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein expression of a polynucleotide which codes for the galP gene has been increased by increasing the copy number of the gene.
7. The process of either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein expression of the galP gene in said microorganism has been increased by changing the promoter normally found in said galP gene.

8. The process of either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said microorganism overexpresses one or more genes selected from the group consisting of:

- a) the thrABC operon coding for aspartate kinase, homoserine dehydrogenase, homoserine kinase and threonine synthase;
- 5 b) the pyc gene coding for pyruvate carboxylase;
- c) the pps gene coding for phosphoenolpyruvate synthase;
- d) the ppc gene coding for phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase;
- e) the pntA and pntB genes coding for transhydrogenase,
- f) the rhtB gene which imparts homoserine resistance;
- 10 g) the mqo gene coding for malate:quinone oxidoreductase;
- h) the rhtC gene which imparts threonine resistance;
- i) the thrE gene coding for threonine export protein;
- j) the gdhA gene coding for glutamate dehydrogenase;
- k) the glk gene coding for glucokinase;
- 15 l) the hns gene coding for DNA binding protein HLP-II;
- m) the pgm gene coding for phosphoglucomutase;
- n) the fba gene coding for fructose biphosphate aldolase;
- o) the ptsH gene coding for phosphohistidine protein hexose phosphotransferase;
- 20 p) the ptsI gene coding for enzyme I in the phosphotransferase system;
- q) the crr gene coding for the glucose-specific IIA component;
- r) the ptsG gene coding for the glucose-specific IIBC component;
- s) the lrp gene coding for a regulator in the leucine regulon;
- t) the csrA gene coding for the global regulator Csr;
- 25 u) the fadR gene coding for a regulator in the fad regulon;
- v) the iclR gene coding for a regulator in central intermediary metabolism;
- w) the mopB gene coding for the 10 KDa chaperone;
- x) the ahpC gene coding for the small sub-unit of alkyl hydroperoxide reductase;
- 30 y) the ahpF gene coding for the large sub-unit of alkyl hydroperoxide reductase;
- z) the cystK gene coding for cysteine synthase A;

- aa) the *cysB* gene coding for the regulator in the *cys* regulon;
- bb) the *cysJ* gene coding for the flavoprotein in NADPH sulfite reductase;
- cc) the *cysI* gene coding for haemoprotein in NADPH sulfite reductase;
- dd) the *cysH* gene coding for adenylylsulfate reductase;
- 5 ee) the *phoB* gene coding for the positive regulator PhoB in the *pho* regulon;
- ff) the *phoR* gene coding for the sensor protein in the *pho* regulon;
- gg) the *phoE* gene coding for protein E in the outer cell membrane;
- hh) the *pykF* gene coding for the pyruvate kinase I stimulated by fructose;
- ii) the *pfkB* gene coding for 6-phosphofructokinase II;
- 10 jj) the *malE* gene coding for periplasmatic binding protein in maltose transport;
- kk) the *sodA* gene coding for superoxidedismutase;
- ll) the *rseA* gene coding for a membrane protein with anti- σ^E activity;
- mm) the *rseC* gene coding for a global regulator in the σ^E factor;
- nn) the *sucA* gene coding for the decarboxylase sub-unit of 2-ketoglutarate
15 dehydrogenase;
- oo) the *sucB* gene coding for the dihydrolipoyl-transsuccinase E2 subunit of 2-
ketoglutarate dehydrogenase;
- pp) the *sucC* gene coding for the β -subunit of succinyl-CoA synthetase;
- qq) the *sucD* gene coding for the α -subunit in succinyl-CoA synthetase;
- 20 rr) the *adk* gene coding for adenylate kinase;
- ss) the *hdeA* gene coding for a periplasmatic protein with a chaperonin-like
function;
- tt) the *hdeB* gene coding for a periplasmatic protein with a chaperonin-like
function;
- 25 uu) the *icd* gene coding for isocitrate dehydrogenase;
- vv) the *mgIB* gene coding for periplasmatic, galactose-binding transport protein;
- ww) the *lpd* gene coding for dihydrolipoamide dehydrogenase;
- xx) the *aceE* gene coding for the E1 component of pyruvate dehydrogenase
complex;
- 30 yy) the *aceF* gene coding for the E2 component of pyruvate dehydrogenase
complex;

- zz) the pepB gene coding for aminopeptidase B;
- aaa) the aldH gene coding for aldehyde dehydrogenase;
- bbb) the bfr gene coding for the iron storage homoprotein;
- ccc) the udp gene coding for uridine phosphorylase; and
- 5 ddd) the rseB gene coding for the regulator of sigmaE factor activity.

9. The process of either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein at least one gene in said microorganism is attenuated by either being switched off or having its expression reduced, said gene being selected from the group consisting of:

- 10 a) the tdh gene coding for threonine dehydrogenase;
- b) the mdh gene coding for malate dehydrogenase;
- c) the gene product of the open reading frame (ORF) yjfA;
- d) the gene product of the open reading frame (ORF) ytfP;
- e) the pckA gene coding for the enzyme phosphoenol-pyruvate carboxykinase;
- 15 f) the poxB gene coding for pyruvate oxidase;
- g) the aceA gene coding for isocitrate lyase;
- h) the dgsA gene coding for the DgsA regulator in the phosphotransferase system;
- i) the fruR gene coding for fructose repressor;
- 20 j) the rpoS gene coding for the sigma³⁸-Factor;
- k) the aspA gene coding for aspartate ammonium lyase; and
- l) the aceB gene coding for malate synthase A gene.

10. A microorganism from the Enterobacteriaceae family, in which the galP gene or or
25 other nucleotide sequences coding for galP are overexpressed.

11. The microorganism of claim 10, wherein said microorganism is from the genus Escherichia.

30 12. The microorganism of either claim 10 or claim 11 wherein said microorganism produces L-threonine.